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**Epping Rural District Council**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**Medical Officer of Health**

including the Report of the

**Chief Sanitary Inspector**

For the year ending December 31st, 1950

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# Epping Rural District Council

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To the Chairman and Members of the  
Epping Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the year ending 31st December, 1950, on the health and sanitary circumstances of the district.

## **Vital Statistics**

The birth rate was slightly lower at 17.1 per 1,000 population, and the death rate was slightly higher at 11.5 per 1,000 population. With 328 births and 221 deaths there was a natural population increase of 107, but the Registrar General estimated our population at 19,160, an increase of 840 on the 1949 estimate. The difference in the natural increase and the Registrar General's estimate is explained by the growth of Harlow New Town.

The infant death rate (36.5 per 1,000 live births) is above the figure for England and Wales (24.8 per 1,000 live births). There was no maternal death in the district.

## **Infectious Diseases**

In 1950 eleven new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, compared with six cases in 1949. The disease caused four deaths compared with one death in the previous year. Control of tuberculosis by artificial immunisation with Bacille Calmette-Guérin (B.C.G.) has been practised in Scandinavian countries for some years and during 1950 this method of control has been introduced to Epping Rural District for persons who are exposed to special risk of infection. A Mass Radiography Unit is expected to visit the district in 1951 when it is hoped to X-ray as many adult chests as possible and thereby discover unsuspected cases of pulmonary tuberculosis in need of treatment.

One case of diphtheria was notified, a break in a five-year record of freedom from this disease; this was a mild infection in an immunised boy.

In 1950 there were 328 births in the district and in the same year 216 children or about two-thirds were completely immunised against diphtheria, a satisfactory percentage. In the same period only 114 children or about a third of the total were vaccinated; at this low rate the major part of the population will be susceptible to Smallpox in a few years.

### **Harlow New Town**

The year 1950 has seen considerable building progress at Harlow New Town. The Building Byelaws of Epping Rural District have been amended to allow a 6in. reduction in the lower ceiling height to 7ft. 6in. If ventilation is adequate this ceiling height is not detrimental to health and should make the room easier to heat in an England where fuel conservation is increasingly important.

The vital statistics for Harlow are included with those of the Rural District, and therefore a separate statistical observation of the New Harlow will not be practicable until the town achieves urban status.

### **Food Poisoning**

Two Nazeing residents were victims of the Hertfordshire food poisoning outbreak caused by the infection from an imported tinned ham with an organism known as Salmonella Wien. In addition, a household outbreak occurred where the three occupants suffered from a Salmonella Typhimurium infection. The origin of the infection was not traced.

### **Food Hygiene**

Talks on food hygiene were given in Epping and Hoddesdon and the Epping Empire Cinema very kindly screened the film "Fly about the House."

### **Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948**

Several cases have been considered for possible action under the powers given in this Act (persons living in insanitary conditions). It was not necessary to take action in any instance as

co-operation was obtained. The investigation of these cases suggested that there was a shortage of hospital accommodation for the elderly chronic sick. However, further investigation at the hospital revealed that forty elderly patients who were no longer in need of hospital care could not be discharged because they had no homes to go to. If Essex County Council could provide adequate accommodation under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948, the bottleneck would be removed.

### **National Health Service Act, 1946**

With regard to the review of the working arrangements under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council have so far as possible, adhered to their proposals made as Local Health Authority and the work over the past year has been conducted on these lines as set out under the various sections of the Act, being expanded so far as this has been possible.

No major difficulties seem to have arisen and I think a fair summary would be to say that the year's work has been mainly a continuation of existing services.

In concluding my Report, I would like to record my appreciation to the staff of the Public Health Department for their help and co-operation and to the Area Medical Officer, Dr. Brown, for some of the statistics included in this Report, also to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support during 1950.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. PATTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

# Epping Rural District Council

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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1950

*Chairman:* Councillor C. H. Bradshaw, J.P.

*Vice Chairman:* Mrs. H. Howard

### *Members:*

|                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Councillor A. Barratt, C.C. | Councillor Mrs. H. Howard |
| „ A. E. Brown               | „ R. J. Padfield          |
| „ F. A. Coates              | „ J. Padfield             |
| „ L. P. Davis               | „ J. W. Stevens           |
| „ Mrs. A. R. Duck           | „ Mrs. C. O. Sainsbury    |
| Councillor E. D. Swift      |                           |

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## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

### *Medical Officer of Health:*

Dr. J. L. PATTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

### *Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health:*

Mrs. I. M. STOCK

### *Chief Sanitary Inspector:*

Mr. H. J. HEELEY, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.  
Certificate of Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Board  
Royal Sanitary Institute (Meat and other Foods) Certificate  
Diploma in Practical Sanitary Science, London

### *Additional Sanitary Inspector:*

Mr. G. H. GREEN, M.S.I.A.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute  
and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Examination Board

### *Clerks:*

Miss A. E. A. ROTHWELL

Miss S. SHAW

Population: 1951 Census : 20,013.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

|                                                                                |                                          |     |     |     |     |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| Area (in acres)                                                                | ...                                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34,856    |
| Population                                                                     | ...                                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19,160    |
| Number of inhabited houses                                                     | ...                                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5,983     |
| Rateable Value at March 31st, 1950                                             | ...                                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | £107,190  |
| Sum represented by a penny rate for the financial year ending March 31st, 1950 | ...                                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | £407 19 9 |
| The rate in the pound of the general rate was:—                                |                                          |     |     |     |     |           |
|                                                                                | in respect of the financial year 1949/50 |     |     |     |     | 18 4      |
|                                                                                | in respect of the financial year 1950/51 |     |     |     |     | 19 4      |

## VITAL STATISTICS

|              |              |     | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|--------------|-----|------|--------|-------|
| LIVE BIRTHS: | Legitimate   | ... | 171  | 148    | 319   |
|              | Illegitimate | ... | 5    | 4      | 9     |
|              |              |     |      | Total: | 328   |

Birth rate per 1,000 of the population: 17.1

|               |              |     | Male | Female | Total |
|---------------|--------------|-----|------|--------|-------|
| STILL BIRTHS: | Legitimate   | ... | 0    | 2      | 2     |
|               | Illegitimate | ... | 0    | 0      | 0     |
|               |              |     |      | Total: | 2     |

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births: 6.0

|                               |     |     | Male | Female | Total |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|------|--------|-------|
| DEATHS                        | ... | ... | 129  | 92     | 221   |
| (Registrar General's Figures) |     |     |      |        |       |

Death rate per 1,000 population: 11.5

|                                 |              |     | Male | Female | Total |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----|------|--------|-------|
| DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR: |              |     |      |        |       |
|                                 | Legitimate   | ... | 6    | 6      | 12    |
|                                 | Illegitimate | ... | 0    | 0      | 0     |
|                                 |              |     |      | Total: | 12    |

Death rate of infants under 1 year (per 1,000 live births): 36.5

## MATERNAL DEATHS:

|                                    |     |        |   |
|------------------------------------|-----|--------|---|
| Puerperal and Post-abortion sepsis | ... | ...    | 0 |
| Other maternal causes              | ... | ...    | 0 |
|                                    |     | Total: | 0 |

CAUSES OF DEATH AS GIVEN BY THE REGISTRAR  
GENERAL FOR THE YEAR, 1950

|                                            | Male  | Female | Total |
|--------------------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Cerebrospinal Fever ... ..                 | 0     | 0      | 0     |
| Acute infective encephalitis ... ..        | 0     | 0      | 0     |
| Influenza ... ..                           | 0     | 0      | 0     |
| Whooping Cough ... ..                      | 0     | 0      | 0     |
| Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ... | 3     | 1      | 4     |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..         | 0     | 1      | 1     |
| Syphilitic Disease ... ..                  | 0     | 0      | 0     |
| Cancer (all forms) ... ..                  | 24    | 20     | 44    |
| Intracranial vascular lesions ... ..       | 14    | 15     | 29    |
| Heart Disease ... ..                       | 42    | 28     | 70    |
| Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...   | 7     | 3      | 10    |
| Bronchitis ... ..                          | 0     | 2      | 2     |
| Pneumonia ... ..                           | 5     | 5      | 10    |
| Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..          | 2     | 1      | 3     |
| Digestive Diseases ... ..                  | 4     | 0      | 4     |
| Nephritis ... ..                           | 1     | 0      | 1     |
| Congenital malformations and Birth Trauma  | 4     | 2      | 6     |
| Diabetes ... ..                            | 0     | 1      | 1     |
| Hyperplasia of the Prostate ... ..         | 5     | 0      | 5     |
| Maternal causes ... ..                     | 0     | 0      | 0     |
| Road Traffic Accidents ... ..              | 1     | 0      | 1     |
| Suicide ... ..                             | 2     | 0      | 2     |
| Other Violent Causes ... ..                | 5     | 2      | 7     |
| All other causes ... ..                    | 10    | 11     | 21    |
|                                            | <hr/> | <hr/>  | <hr/> |
| Totals :                                   | 129   | 92     | 221   |
|                                            | <hr/> | <hr/>  | <hr/> |

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING  
THE PAST FIVE YEARS

|                                  | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 |
|----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Scarlet Fever ... ..             | 27   | 13   | 20   | 13   | 20   |
| Diphtheria ... ..                | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    |
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid ... ..   | 1    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 1    |
| Erysipelas ... ..                | 1    | 3    | 4    | 1    | 0    |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..         | 0    | 2    | 0    | 0    | 1    |
| Measles ... ..                   | 103  | 95   | 200  | 276  | 36   |
| Whooping Cough ... ..            | 62   | 24   | 139  | 48   | 199  |
| Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ... .. | 1    | 1    | 0    | 1    | 0    |
| Dysentery ... ..                 | 2    | 0    | 1    | 1    | 2    |
| Infective Hepatitis ... ..       | 0    | 2    | 0    | 11   | 5    |

## PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

|                              |     |     |     | Cases notified |      | Deaths |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------------|------|--------|
|                              |     |     |     | 1949           | 1950 |        |
| Whooping Cough               | ... | ... | ... | 48             | 199  | 0      |
| Measles                      | ... | ... | ... | 276            | 36   | 0      |
| Scarlet Fever                | ... | ... | ... | 13             | 20   | 0      |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever         | ... | ... | ... | 1              | 0    | 0      |
| Erysipelas                   | ... | ... | ... | 1              | 0    | 0      |
| Typhoid Fever                | ... | ... | ... | 0              | 1    | 0      |
| Poliomyelitis                | ... | ... | ... | 19             | 0    | 0      |
| Puerperal Pyrexia            | ... | ... | ... | 0              | 1    | 0      |
| Infective Hepatitis          | ... | ... | ... | 11             | 5    | 0      |
| Food Poisoning               | ... | ... | ... | 1              | 5    | 0      |
| Dysentery                    | ... | ... | ... | 1              | 2    | 0      |
| Pneumonia                    | ... | ... | ... | 5              | 3    | 0      |
| Tuberculosis (all forms)     | ... | ... | ... | 6              | 11   | 4      |
| Acute Infective Encephalitis | ... | ... | ... | 1              | 0    | 0      |
| Diphtheria                   | ... | ... | ... | 0              | 1    | 0      |

## COMPARATIVE TABLES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATION AND DEATH RATES per 1,000 of the population in 1950. (Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

|                      |     |     |     | Notifications      |                | Deaths             |                |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
|                      |     |     |     | England<br>& Wales | Epping<br>R.D. | England<br>& Wales | Epping<br>R.D. |
| Typhoid Fever        | ... | ... | ... | 0.00               | 0.00           | 0.00               | 0.00           |
| Paratyphoid Fever    | ... | ... | ... | 0.01               | 0.00           | 0.00               | 0.00           |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever | ... | ... | ... | 0.03               | 0.00           | 0.03               | 0.00           |
| Scarlet Fever        | ... | ... | ... | 1.50               | 1.00           |                    |                |
| Whooping Cough       | ... | ... | ... | 3.60               | 10.00          | 0.01               | 0.00           |
| Diphtheria           | ... | ... | ... | 0.02               | 0.05           | 0.00               | 0.00           |
| Erysipelas           | ... | ... | ... | 0.17               | 0.00           |                    |                |
| Smallpox             | ... | ... | ... | 0.00               | 0.00           | 0.00               | 0.00           |
| Measles              | ... | ... | ... | 8.39               | 1.80           |                    |                |
| Pneumonia            | ... | ... | ... | 0.70               | 0.15           | 0.51               | 0.00           |
| Poliomyelitis        | ... | ... | ... | 0.18               | 0.00           | 0.02               | 0.00           |
| Polio-encephalitis   | ... | ... | ... |                    |                |                    |                |
| Food Poisoning       | ... | ... | ... | 0.17               | 0.25           |                    |                |
| Tuberculosis         | ... | ... | ... |                    |                | 0.36               | 0.05           |
| Influenza            | ... | ... | ... |                    |                | 0.10               | 0.15           |

## GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

### Laboratory Facilities.

A Ministry of Health Laboratory operates at St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping. Water and ice-cream samples are examined at the Counties Public Health Laboratory, 66, Queen Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. Milk samples are examined at the Institute of Agriculture, Writtle.

### Hospitals.

The district is served by various Hospitals under the Epping Group Hospital Management Committee.

### Child Welfare.

The Local Health Authority is the Essex County Council. Clinics are held at the following times and places : —

**EPPING :** The Combined Treatment Centre, 15, Regent Road, Epping, provides the following services :—  
School children's minor ailments every school morning 9—9.30 a.m. Doctor attends Thursday mornings. Appointments are arranged for Eye, Orthopædic and Speech Therapy Clinics.  
A Child Welfare Clinic for Babies is held on Thursday afternoons at 2 p.m. 1,988 children attended in 1950.  
An Ante-Natal Clinic is held at 2 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday, and a Women's Welfare Clinic at 2 p.m. on the second Friday, where advice is given about Family Planning. 88 women attended this clinic in 1950.  
Diphtheria Immunisation is carried out on Thursday mornings at 11.30 a.m.

**HARLOW :** The Women's Institute Club Room :—  
An Ante-Natal Clinic is held at 2.30 p.m. on the 2nd Friday in the month. There were 152 attendances in 1950.  
An Infant Welfare Clinic is held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month at 2 p.m.

## **Infant Welfare Clinics.**

|                                                    |                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| HARLOW COMMON: The Baptist Chapel, Potter Street   | 1st Monday in the month<br>2.30 p.m.     |
| MATCHING TYE: The Women's Institute                | 3rd Friday in the month<br>2 p.m.        |
| SHEERING: The Parish Room                          | 1st Friday in the month<br>2.30 p.m.     |
| THEYDON BOIS: The Village Hall, Loughton Lane      | 1st Friday in the month<br>3.30 p.m.     |
| NETTESWELL: The Women's Institute Hall             | 4th Thursday in the month<br>2.30 p.m.   |
| MAGDALEN LAVER: The Village Hall (Weighing Centre) | 2nd Tuesday in the month<br>2 p.m.       |
| NORTH WEALD: The Queens Rooms                      | 1st Tuesday in the month<br>2.30 p.m.    |
| PARNDON: The Parish Rooms, Great Parndon           | 4th Tuesday in the month<br>2.30 p.m.    |
| ROYDON: The Community Centre                       | 2nd Thursday in the month<br>2.30 p.m.   |
| NAZEING: The Cadet Hut, St. Leonards Road          | 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month—2 p.m. |

Diphtheria immunisation is available at the above clinics.

Home Visiting is carried out by the County Council's Health Visitors in the area.

## **School Health Service.**

The Education Authority is the Essex County Council. School Nurses inspect the children regularly and there is a medical inspection at each school at least once a year.

## **Tuberculosis.**

A Chest Clinic is held at St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping, every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (old cases by appointment), and new cases every Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. (by appointment).

During the year the Care Association covering the Chigwell, Epping, Waltham Abbey and Ongar districts continued to do useful work. The Association assists cases waiting admission to

sanatorium in various ways, and arranges for the admission of child contacts to a convalescent home. It concerns itself also with the after care of patients by assistance in obtaining materials for occupational therapy and whenever possible suitable employment for those fit for work. The Association is supported by voluntary contributions and receives also a grant from the County Council.

The Honorary Secretary is Mr. A. J. Edwards, 37, Woodland Road, Loughton, Essex.

### **District Nurses.**

District Nurses employed by the Epping District Nursing Association, and Midwives employed by the Essex County Council, serve the area.

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## **REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR**

The Chairman and Members of  
the Epping Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1950 relating to the sanitary circumstances of the District, setting out particulars of the work carried out by the Department.

You will observe that there has been a considerable amount of work covering a wide sphere in connection with public health, especially in regard to the supervision of food supplies and housing.

I desire to extend my thanks to the Members of the Council for the help and consideration given me during the year and to express my thanks to the Staff of my Department for their ready co-operation.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. J. HEELEY, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.,  
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

## HOUSING.

### (i) Progress.

During the year one hundred and thirteen houses were erected by the Council and twenty-seven by private enterprise.

In December 1950 there were eight hundred and seventy-nine applicants for housing accommodation registered in the Housing Estates Department. Many of these families are occupying premises where there is more than one family unit, with the consequent domestic disturbances.

There is no record, however, in the Department of gross overcrowding, indeed, the Council has endeavoured to deal with such cases by giving priority.

The worst housing conditions in the district now appear to be due to the occupation of premises structurally defective, and in a state of disrepair with a lack of facilities, which in many cases renders them unfit for habitation.

It was found at the time of the Survey of Rural Houses in the district that there were two hundred and eight such houses and these, generally, have not been dealt with, other than by bringing to the notice of owners the more serious defects in order to render the cottages weatherproof.

It is felt, therefore, that the Council should now give consideration to the question of demolition and the rehousing of the occupants, also to the repair of property to prevent further deterioration which will, if not dealt with result in such premises becoming unfit and thus creating a problem which, at some later date, will be much more serious than that in which we now find it.

The control of rents under the provisions of the Rent Restrictions Acts has an important bearing on the work that can be accomplished by this Department in carrying out its duties of bringing about a better standard for house property.

At the present time there are many cottages with rentals of four shillings up to ten shillings a week including rates, where it is uneconomical for the owners to carry out the repairs necessary. It may be true that some owners neglected their property during the time when the cost of labour and materials was much less, and to these can be attributed much of the disrepair now found and for which it is costly to carry out the Council's present requirements. To keep this before us, however, would be a negative policy,

indeed, many of the cottages to which reference is made have changed hands.

However, these facts have been under consideration for a considerable period by those engaged in public health work and have been brought to the attention of the Ministry of Health, and it is hoped that some amendment of the Rent Restrictions Act will be brought about at a not too distant date.

## **(ii) Repairs.**

The Department has continued to make housing inspections during the year and as a result six hundred and thirteen defects were remedied. It is the practice to deal with owners by way of a letter pointing out the defects, and this has the desired results in many cases. It was, however, necessary to serve forty-six statutory notices, but in no instance was it necessary to take a case before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction.

## **(iii) Hutments.**

The occupation of hutments which were vacated by the Services at the end of the war still continues. The number at the end of the period under review is as follows :—

|           |     |     |    |
|-----------|-----|-----|----|
| Thornwood | ... | ... | 76 |
| Moor Hall | ... | ... | 10 |
| Nazeing   | ... | ... | 1  |

being a reduction of twenty-one since the end of 1949.

## **(iv) Caravan dwellings.**

There is a tendency to occupy caravans for permanent housing purposes in the District. These are brought in, usually from outside the District, and in consequence action has to be taken under the provisions of the Public Health and Town and Country Planning Acts. It is, however, difficult to bring about a satisfactory conclusion having in mind that the occupiers have no other accommodation in which to live.

It would appear that it should be the responsibility of the Authority of the area in which these persons previously lived to rehouse them or the authority in whose area they are now employed,

### **(v) Demolition.**

Individual representations have been made to the Council relating to premises occupied for human habitation which have been found to be unfit. As a result six Demolition Orders were made, and in two cases undertakings relating to occupation given by the owner were accepted.

During the year six houses were demolished, the occupiers of four houses being rehoused in Council houses.

### **(vi) Improvement of Unfit Houses.**

Since the Housing Survey took place houses, by reason of major work being carried out, have been raised to a degree of fitness which warranted them being taken out of the 'unfit for habitation' category and placed in categories 1 and 2 which, respectively, relate to houses being in all respects reasonably fit or with minor defects only.

## **HOUSING ACT, 1949.**

This Act came into force during the year and is an Act to amend the Housing Act, 1936; to promote the improvement of housing accommodation by authorising the making of contributions out of the Exchequer and of grants by local authorities; to amend the Housing (Financial and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1946, with respect to the amounts of contributions payable thereunder out of the Exchequer, and certain other enactments relating to the making of contributions out of the Exchequer in respect of the provision of housing accommodation; to authorise the making out of the Exchequer of contributions in respect of the provision of hostels and of grants in respect of building experiments; to extend and amend other enactments relating to housing and domestic water supply.

With regard to grants for the improvement of dwellings it is provided that :—

- (a) an application is made to the local authority and approved by them before the improvement works are started ;
- (b) the local authority are satisfied that the dwellings provided or improved by means of the improvement works will provide satisfactory housing accommodation for a period of not less than 30 years after the completion of the works ;

- (c) all such dwellings shall conform with the requirements of the Local Authority ;
- (d) the applicant owns the freehold of the land, or owns the leasehold with not less than 30 years unexpired at the date of the application (except where the application is made in respect of the residence house of a void ecclesiastical benefice by the sequestrator of the profits, or by the trustees in respect of a building held upon trust for use as an almshouse or as the residence of a minister of religion) ; and
- (e) the estimated expenses of executing the improvement works, or, where more than one dwelling is being provided or improved, the proportion of those expenses attributable to each resulting dwelling is neither less than £100 nor (unless the local authority consider that the circumstances of a particular case justify it, e.g., where buildings of architectural or historic interest are involved, and the Minister gives his consent) more than £600.

No improvement grants can be made for assistance to be given for work of ordinary repair except in so far as it is incidental to improvement works, nor can any assistance be given for the provision of dwellings by means of the conversion as distinct from the improvement of dwellings in respect of which assistance has previously been given under the Act or under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926—1942.

During the year three applications were made, one was approved in principle so that it could be sent to the Ministry for further examination and two applications were refused.

## **SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.**

### **(i) Food and Drugs Act, 1938—Byelaws.**

During the year close supervision has been maintained on premises where food is sold, prepared or stored.

The Council has now adopted byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly practices and conditions in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and the sale of food in the open air. These came into force in May 1950. Every trader was given a copy of the byelaws and requested to exhibit them in the shops so that their employees may be fully aware of the contents.

## **(ii) Slaughterhouses.**

None of the slaughterhouses in the district is used other than for slaughtering pigs for private use. Many of these carcasses were inspected on request.

## **(iii) Unsound Food.**

The amount of unsound food found during inspections and which has been condemned is set out in Appendix A.

It has been necessary during the period under review to take up with the Ministry of Food.

- (a) the question of condemnation of English meat due to bone taint which appeared to be due to insufficient cooling before delivery ;
- (b) in connection with the handling of meat during transit ;
- (c) the condemnation of large quantities of eggs due to improper packing and mishandling, thereby causing breakages and the loss of six hundred and ninety eggs.

On each occasion the Ministry have fully investigated the Council's complaints and replies received indicated that the matters referred to had been discussed with the persons responsible in each case.

With regard to (a) and (c) conditions have improved but the question of making proper provision for the hanging of carcasses in delivery vans has not improved owing to new or re-equipped bodies being extremely difficult to get. This is due to the shortage of aluminium sheets and to the shortage of steel for hanging rails. The matter, however, is being kept under review in an endeavour to bring about an improvement as soon as possible.

## **(iv) Hotels, public houses, restaurants and cafés.**

Hotels, public houses, restaurants and cafés are periodically surveyed and details of the work carried out in this direction are dealt with in Appendix B.

It has been found that many of the kitchens in which food is prepared are too small. In some of these cases there is insufficient space to carry out the many sides of preparation and cooking. It is not necessary, however, for these premises to be registered before setting up business so that the local authority

may be assured that they are suitable for the purpose. The Government, however, has set up a Catering Trade Working Party to report on hygiene in catering establishments and their recommendations in this and many other respects will, no doubt, be made in due course.

**(v) Food Shops.**

All the butchers shops in the district have glass front display counters and fishmongers are being encouraged to provide similar fittings, or protective coverings, for fish on the slab. With many traders successful results have been achieved.

**(vi) Canteens—School.**

The inspection of some of the school canteens has been completed and suggestions made to the Educational Authorities relating to the protection and service of food, and improvements to buildings in which the food is prepared and cooked.

Discussion took place with the Headteachers relating to the washing of hands of the children before partaking of meals and it is gratifying to know that this is now being carried out.

**(vii) Canteens—Factory.**

Factory canteens are also supervised, both where industry is carried out and where large canteens have been set up by contractors carrying out work in the Harlow New Town area. It can be appreciated that this work is most important having regard to the large number of meals served. One canteen caters for over one thousand meals per day.

**PREPARATION AND SALE OF ICE-CREAM.**

There are three premises in the area in which ice-cream is manufactured and sold. These premises are frequently visited to ascertain that the conditions under which this product is prepared are of a high standard.

There are also forty-three premises registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream, and the dealers are encouraged to sell wrapped ice-cream only.

Thirty samples of ice-cream were taken during the year and submitted to a bacteriological examination and to the methylene

blue reaction test. The results are extremely satisfactory, being as follows :—

|                                          |  |  |  |  |  | Manufactured |           |
|------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--------------|-----------|
|                                          |  |  |  |  |  | Within       | Outside   |
|                                          |  |  |  |  |  | the Area.    | the Area. |
| Ministry of Health's Provisional Grade I |  |  |  |  |  | 15           | 3         |
| " " " " " II                             |  |  |  |  |  | 9            | —         |
| " " " " " III                            |  |  |  |  |  | —            | 2         |
| " " " " " IV                             |  |  |  |  |  | 1            | —         |
|                                          |  |  |  |  |  | —            | —         |
|                                          |  |  |  |  |  | 25           | 5         |
|                                          |  |  |  |  |  | —            | —         |

**MILK SUPPLIES.**

Milk retailers' premises are kept under close observation and samples taken periodically.

There were twenty-one licences issued, five being in respect of dealers' licences; six supplementary licences to use the special designation 'Sterilised'; five the designation 'Tuberculin Tested' and five the designation 'Pasteurised'.

Twenty-eight samples were taken during the year and submitted to either the coliform, methylene blue, plate count or, in the case of pasteurised milk, the phosphatase tests. Of these, twenty-three proved to be satisfactory; one sample was unsatisfactory due to coliform bacteria being present in 1/1000th millilitre quantity and four were inconclusive.

**DRAINAGE.**

Again the question of unsatisfactory drainage from a large number of houses in the Parish of Sheering was brought to the notice of the Council. The conditions in the area generally being most unsatisfactory. It is hoped that the Ministry will now approve of the scheme placed before them to abate nuisances detrimental to the health of the public.

The Surveyor to the Council has kindly supplied the following information relating to drainage and sewerage :—Twenty-five properties were converted from the dry to the water carriage sewage disposal system, and connected to the public sewer; and eleven new properties, other than the development of the Harlow

Development Corporation and Council Houses, were also connected to the sewer.

During the year the extension of the Harlow Sewage Disposal works was completed and surface water and soil sewers laid to serve seventy-six houses to be built at the Oxleys, Harlow. The extension of the Harlow works was necessary to serve the development of the new town. The sewer was extended in Shooters Drive, Nazeing, to serve private development.

The Council undertake the emptying of pail closets and cesspools in certain areas.

## WATER SUPPLY.

### (i) General.

The Water Undertakers for the whole of the district are the Herts. and Essex Water Company Limited. The water being derived from wells, one at Sawbridgeworth and one at Roydon, both of which are approximately 200 feet deep.

Periodically, samples have been taken during the year by the Water Company and by Officers of this Department, which show that the water, though hard, is of a high standard of organic quality and bacterial purity and is consistent with a wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

Extensions during the year have been carried out by the Water Company as follows :—

|              |     |     | 2in. | 3in.  | 4in.  | 6in. | 9in. | 12in. | Total<br>yards |
|--------------|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|------|------|-------|----------------|
| Theydon Bois | ... | 10  | 312  | 1,236 |       |      |      |       | 1,558          |
| Harlow       | ... | ... |      | 2,288 | 2,561 | 29   | 445  | 3,025 | 8,348          |
| Nazeing      | ... | ... |      | 432   |       |      |      |       | 432            |
|              |     |     | 10   | 3,032 | 3,797 | 29   | 445  | 3,025 | 10,338         |

The number of occupied houses in the District is now 5,983, of these approximately 111 are occupied houses that have not a

main supply of water. The details are set out in the following table :—

| Parish         |     | Total No. of Houses. | Main Supply to House. | Estimated population. | Main Supply Standpipe. | Estimated population. | Wells & Springs, pump, etc. | Estimated population. |
|----------------|-----|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Epping Upland  | ... | 194                  | 143                   | 150                   | 28                     | 98                    | 23                          | 80                    |
| Parndon        | ... | 206                  | 141                   | 493                   | 49                     | 171                   | 16                          | 56                    |
| Harlow         | ... | 1591                 | 1538                  | 5383                  | 42                     | 147                   | 11                          | 38                    |
| Magdalen Laver | ... | 82                   | 76                    | 266                   | —                      | —                     | 6                           | 21                    |
| Matching       | ... | 187                  | 175                   | 612                   | 5                      | 17                    | 7                           | 24                    |
| Nazeing        | ... | 774                  | 705                   | 2467                  | 55                     | 192                   | 14                          | 49                    |
| Netteswell     | ... | 263                  | 228                   | 798                   | 29                     | 101                   | 6                           | 21                    |
| North Weald    | ... | 742                  | 701                   | 2453                  | 41                     | 143                   | —                           | —                     |
| Roydon         | ... | 725                  | 629                   | 2201                  | 75                     | 262                   | 21                          | 73                    |
| Sheering       | ... | 335                  | 256                   | 896                   | 72                     | 252                   | 7                           | 24                    |
| Theydon Bois   | ... | 833                  | 831                   | 2908                  | 2                      | 7                     | —                           | —                     |
| Theydon Garnon | ... | 51                   | 49                    | 171                   | 2                      | 7                     | —                           | —                     |
|                |     | 5983                 | 5472                  | 18798                 | 400                    | 1397                  | 111                         | 386                   |

\* Estimated population is based on approximately 3½ persons per occupied dwelling.

During the year there were twelve samples of raw water from the main supply submitted for bacteriological examination and seven after treatment.

The results of two of these samples were as follows :—

(a) **Before Treatment—Bacteriological Examination.**

Date: 19.7.50. Taken from: Aerating Fountain, Pumping Station, Sawbridgeworth.

|                                     |                |                 |                 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| No. of Colonies                     | 1 day at 37°C. | 2 days at 37°C. | 3 days at 20°C. |
| developing on Agar.                 | 0 per ml.      | 0 per ml.       | 9 per ml.       |
|                                     | Present in.    | Absent from.    | Probable No.    |
| Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction | —ml.           | 100ml.          | 0 per 100ml.    |
| Bact. Coli. (Type I)                | —ml.           | 100ml.          | 0 per 100ml.    |
| Cl. welchii Reaction                | —ml.           | 100ml.          |                 |

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity. These results are consistent with a wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

**(b) Before Treatment—Chemical and Bacteriological Examination**

Date: 28.6.50. Taken from: Aerating Fountain, Pumping Station, Roydon.

Chemical Results Expressed in Parts per Million  
 Appearance: Faint opalescence with a few mineral particles.

Turbidity : 4  
 Colour : Filtered : Nil  
 Odour : Nil  
 Taste : —  
 pH: 7.2  
 Free Carbon Dioxide : 27  
 Electric Conductivity : 650  
 Alkalinity as Ca CO<sub>3</sub> : 295

|                                          |      |    |                 |                      |    |                 |                   |                        |
|------------------------------------------|------|----|-----------------|----------------------|----|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Ca                                       | Mg   | Na | CO <sub>3</sub> | SO <sub>4</sub>      | Cl | NO <sub>3</sub> | SiO <sub>2</sub>  |                        |
| 100                                      | 22.6 | 17 | 177             | 46                   | 26 | A               | 24                | Hypothetical           |
|                                          |      |    |                 |                      |    |                 |                   | Combinations           |
| 100                                      |      |    | 150             |                      |    |                 |                   | Calcium Carbonate 250  |
|                                          | 10.9 |    | 27              |                      |    |                 |                   | Magnesium Carbonate 38 |
|                                          | 11.7 |    |                 | 46                   |    |                 |                   | Magnesium Sulphate 58  |
|                                          |      | 17 |                 |                      | 26 |                 |                   | Sodium Chloride ... 43 |
|                                          |      |    |                 |                      |    |                 | 24                | Silica ... 24          |
|                                          |      |    |                 |                      |    |                 |                   | Difference ... 7       |
| Total solid constituents dried at 180°C. |      |    |                 |                      |    |                 |                   | 420                    |
| Hardness-Total*:                         |      |    | 345             | Carbonate:           |    | 295             | Non-Carbonate: 50 |                        |
| Nitrate Nitrogen :                       |      |    | 0.0             | Nitrite Nitrogen :   |    |                 | absent            |                        |
| Ammoniacal Nitrogen :                    |      |    | 0.30            | Oxygen Absorbed :    |    |                 | 0.40              |                        |
| Albuminoid Nitrogen :                    |      |    | 0.020           | Residual chlorine :  |    |                 | absent            |                        |
| Metals : Iron                            |      |    | 0.60            | Other metals absent. |    |                 |                   |                        |

\* Calculated from the calcium and magnesium contents.

**Bacteriological Results**

| No. of Colonies developing on Agar. | 1 day at 37°C. | 2 days at 37°C. | 3 days at 20°C. |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                                     | 0 per ml.      | 0 per ml.       | 0 per ml.       |
|                                     | Present in.    | Absent from.    | Probable No.    |
| Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction | —ml.           | 100ml.          | 0 per 100ml.    |
| Bact. coli. (Type I)                | —ml.           | 100ml.          | 0 per 100ml.    |
| Cl. welchii Reaction                | —ml.           | 100ml.          |                 |

This sample has slight opalescence causing noticeable turbidity which is due to the presence of an objectionable trace of iron. It is free from other metals.

The water is neutral in reaction, very hard in character though not excessively so and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution.

It is of very satisfactory organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

Iron does not affect wholesomeness but the amount present is sufficient to merit removal and softening would be advantageous. Apart from these features the results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

#### **(ii) Piped Water Supply to Houses.**

During the year the Council has authorised proceedings under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936 and the Water Act, 1945, relating to the carrying of water in pipes into houses and this policy has been actively pursued.

There is difficulty, however, regarding the maximum amount, namely £20 per property for which the owner is responsible. This may have been a reasonable figure at the time the Public Health Act was passed, but owing to the large increase of the cost of materials and labour it is felt that it is now insufficient. It may therefore not be possible to get the desired connections carried out to certain properties where the distance from the main supply of water is found to be so far as to prohibit the work from being proceeded with, owing to the fact that the legal charges would be exceeded.

#### **(iii) Water Supply—Magdalen Laver.**

The Council agreed to a proposed extension of the water main from Weald Lodge 300 yards east to the boundary of Ashlyns Farm and the particulars are being prepared with the view to transmission to the Ministry of Health for approval.

If the scheme is approved it is assumed that grants will be available as provided for in the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 75.**

### **PROVISION OF DUSTBINS.**

Owing to difficulty arising in certain cases as to the responsibility of providing dustbins to property under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, and having regard to such cases that had been decided in the High Court, the Council considered the question as to who was responsible for the supply of dustbins. It was decided, having in mind the ambiguity of the law, that it would be expedient to put into operation sub-section 3 of section 75 of the Public Health Act, and that in lieu of requiring either the owner or the occupier of a building to provide or maintain dustbins for the reception of house refuse, to undertake, themselves, to provide and maintain such dustbins as may be necessary. It was further decided to make a charge of 5/- per annum for this service.

## **SCHOOLS.**

### **INSPECTION OF SCHOOL PREMISES.**

In April the Council gave instructions for all school premises in the area to be inspected in order that matters relating to hygiene would be brought to their notice.

It was found on inspection that many of the schools had sanitary defects relating to the provision of closet accommodation, water supply for both domestic and drinking purposes, the insufficiency of drying facilities for the children's outer garments, playgrounds and the temperature of classrooms, all of which were brought to the notice of the Divisional Education Authority and, where appropriate, to the Managers of the School.

There has been co-operation between the Education and Local Health Authorities in this matter and in consequence proposals have, or, are being submitted relating to the remedial action being taken.

## **CAMPS—HARLOW NEW TOWN AREA.**

The building of the Harlow New Town has attracted a large number of workmen and in consequence the contractors have set up camps in which the men live. In one case accommodation is provided for some three hundred and fifty men. These establishments are kept under review and advice given regarding general sanitary requirements.

The standard of equipment and general management of the camps is most satisfactory.

## **PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.**

### **(i) General.**

A full report was made to the Council during the year relating to their statutory duties under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and in consequence it was decided to appoint a full-time rodent operative. He commenced duty in September 1950. Since this date the following work has been carried out :—

|                               |        |     |
|-------------------------------|--------|-----|
| No. of properties inspected   | ...    | 199 |
| No. of inspections made       | ...    | 519 |
| No. of infestations found     | ...    | 96  |
| No. of Treatments carried out |        |     |
| (a) rats                      | ... .. | 91  |
| (b) mice only                 | ...    | 5   |

### **(ii) Workable Area Committee.**

In accordance with the suggestion of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries a Workable Area Committee has been set up consisting of members of Epping Urban, Ongar Rural and this Council, so that consideration may be given to matters affecting the three districts and occurring on the boundaries of the respective areas.

## **FACTORIES.**

### **(i) General.**

Detailed investigation has taken place in conjunction with the Officers of the Harlow Development Corporation and the Fire Service Authorities regarding the issue of certificates under section 34 of the Factory Act, 1937, which relates to means of escape in case of fire in respect of a number of factories being built by the Corporation and agreement reached before the commencement of the work of erection.

The question has also been dealt with in regard to other factories already erected in the area.

Consideration has been given to matters arising under the provisions of the Factory and Petroleum Acts regarding the storage and use of petroleum mixtures used in industry having a flash-point which renders them subject to existing legislation.

**(ii) Administration of the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.**

**1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.**

| Premises<br><br>1                                                                                           | No. on Register<br><br>3 | No. of<br>Inspections<br><br>4 | No. of<br>Written Notices<br><br>5 | No. of Occupiers<br>Prosecuted<br><br>6 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..             | 46                       | 30                             | —                                  | —                                       |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..             | 49                       | 2                              | 1                                  | —                                       |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) | —                        | —                              | —                                  | —                                       |
| Total                                                                                                       | 95                       | 32                             | 1                                  | —                                       |

2 CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

| Particulars                                                                        | Number of cases in which defects were found |          |                            |                            | No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                    | Found                                       | Remedied | Referred to H.M. Inspector | Referred by H.M. Inspector |                                                    |
| 1                                                                                  | 3                                           | 4        | 5                          | 6                          | 7                                                  |
| Want of cleanliness ... ..                                                         | 0                                           | 0        | 0                          | 0                          | 0                                                  |
| Overcrowding ... ..                                                                | 0                                           | 0        | 0                          | 0                          | 0                                                  |
| Unreasonable temperature ...                                                       | 0                                           | 0        | 0                          | 0                          | 0                                                  |
| Inadequate ventilation ... ..                                                      | 0                                           | 0        | 0                          | 0                          | 0                                                  |
| Ineffective drainage of floors ...                                                 | 0                                           | 0        | 0                          | 0                          | 0                                                  |
| Sanitary Conveniences :—                                                           |                                             |          |                            |                            |                                                    |
| (a) Insufficient ... ..                                                            | 3                                           | 3        | 0                          | 0                          | 0                                                  |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective ...                                                    | 1                                           | 1        | 0                          | 0                          | 0                                                  |
| (c) Not separate for sexes ...                                                     | 0                                           | 0        | 0                          | 0                          | 0                                                  |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... .. | 3                                           | 2        | 0                          | 0                          | 0                                                  |
| TOTAL                                                                              | 7                                           | 6        | 0                          | 0                          | 0                                                  |

3. OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

There are 18 outworkers registered for employment in the district who are engaged in the making and adapting of wearing apparel and handbags.

## APPENDIX A.

### CONDEMNATION OF DISEASED AND UNSOUND FOOD

|                              | Cwts. | qrs. | lbs. | ozs. |
|------------------------------|-------|------|------|------|
| Bacon/Ham ... ..             |       | 3    | 5    | 15   |
| Fish (fresh) ... ..          |       | 2    | 21   | —    |
| Meat (fresh) ... ..          | 2     | 1    | 12   | 9    |
| Offal ... ..                 |       |      | 14   | —    |
| Eggs ... ..                  |       | 3    | 16   | 12   |
| Miscellaneous (fresh) ... .. | 3     | —    | —    | —    |
| Canned Meat ... ..           | 2     | —    | 24   | 10   |
| „ Fish ... ..                |       |      | 10   | 13   |
| „ Milk ... ..                |       | 3    | 23   | 10   |
| „ Fruit ... ..               |       | 1    | —    | 7½   |
| „ Vegetables ... ..          |       | 1    | 10   | 3½   |
| „ Pickles ... ..             |       |      | 3    | 1    |
| „ Jam ... ..                 |       |      | 26   | —    |
| „ Miscellaneous ... ..       |       | 1    | 12   | 4    |
|                              | 12    | 1    | 13   | 5    |

# APPENDIX B.

## DEFICIENCIES FOUND IN HOTELS, PUBLIC HOUSES, RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND CANTEENS

| Description of premises      | No hot water behind bar | Kitchen walls, etc., dirty | Food storage def. or insufficient | Crockery and Cutlery | Insuff: or no sinks | Draining boards | San. Accommodation | Washing Accommod'n | Cellars, dirty walls, etc. | Structural defs. | Drainage |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------|
| Hotels and Public Houses ... | 16                      | 7                          | 13                                | 1                    | 14                  | 1               | 81                 | —                  | 29                         | 29               | 15       |
| Restaurants and Cafés ...    |                         | 2                          | 3                                 |                      |                     |                 |                    |                    |                            |                  |          |
| Canteen—Factory ...          |                         | 1                          | 1                                 |                      |                     |                 |                    |                    |                            |                  |          |
|                              | 16                      | 10                         | 17                                | 1                    | 14                  | 1               | 81                 | —                  | 29                         | 29               | 15       |





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